

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14911

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XC

SUBJECT: SOVIET ARMY NEWSPAPER ON RELATIONS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA

REF: A. MOSCOW 14081; B. MOSCOW 11933

1. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE'S NEWSPAPER IMPLIES ON OCT 17
THAT PERHAPS NOT ALL OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA
ARE UNANIMOUSLY IN SPPORT OF SOVIET PLANS FOR A COLLECTIVE
SECURITY SYSTEM IN ASIA. REGULAR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR
COLONEL A. LEONT'YEV, WRITING IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, SINGS THE
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USUAL PRAISES OF CSCE AND THAT CONFERENCE'S FINAL ACT AS A

"GOOD EXAMPLE FOR ASIA". HE NAMES THE PENTAGON AND PEKING AS THE TWO UNREASONABLE OPPONENTS OF A COLLECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME IN ASIA, THEN DEPARTS SOMEWHAT FROM THE USUAL RHETORIC TO ADD THAT "MILITARY CIRCLES" IN "SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN ASIA" ALSO CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE THE RETENTION OF "IMPERIALIST MILITARY BLOCS" IN AND AROUND THAT CONTINENT. "THUS, THE ORGAN OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF INDONESIA ANGKATAN BERSENDJATA SUGGESTS THAT SEATO IN ESSENCE BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER MILITARY GROUPING" WHICH, LEONT'YEV CONTENTS, WOULD BE BASED ON ASEAN.

2. LEONT'YEV DOES NOT SUGGEST WHICH COUNTRIES ADVOCATE THE RETENTION OF "IMPERIALIST BLOCS" OTHER THAN CHINA, WHICH HE OF COURSE NAMES OUTRIGHT, AND INDONESIA, WHICH HE AT LEAST IMPLICITLY INCLUDES. BUT HE DOES ACCUSE PEKING OF "PLANTING THE IDEA" THAT "THE MAIN THREAT TO ASIA" IS AN "ALLEGED SOVIET STRIVING TOWARD HEGEMONY" IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEADERS OF THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES, THUS IMPLYING THAT THE LATTER TWO STATES ARE AT LEAST RECEPTIVE TO THE CONCEPT. HE ALSO ACCUSES PEKING OF HAVING ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE KUKRIT OF THE DANGERS OF A TENDENCY IN SOME STATES TO DRIVE TOWARD "REGIONAL HEGEMONY", WHICH TENDENCY, HE EXPLAINS "THE MAOISTS ASCRIBE TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM".

3. COMMENT. INDONESIANS HERE TELL US THAT WHEN PRAVDA (AUG 31) MADE THE SAME POINT AS DOES LEONT'YEV ON THE INDONESIAN MILITARY AND ASEAN, INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR HERE MADE DEMARCHE AS A RESULT. AS WE NOTED REF A, THE INDONESIANS FEEL THAT THEY ARE CURRENTLY BEING COURTIED BY THE SOVIETS, WHO ARE APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING TO ENLIST THEIR SUPPORT IN CONTAINING CHINESE INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. APPEARANCE OF NEEDLING ITEMS SUCH AS THE PRESENT ONE ARE POSSIBLY THAT RESULT OF MOSCOW'S FRUSTRATION OVER CONTINUED ANTI-COMMUNISM IN INDONESIAN PRESS.

4. SIMILARLY, THE SUBTLE JABS LEONT'YEV MAKES AT THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES ARE ANOTHER INDICATOR THAT THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING LITTLE HEADWAY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THEIR INTERESTS WITH BOTH THOSE COUNTRIES.

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